

PARTNERSHIP HELPS COMPANY MEET EPA REQUIREMENTS

ABOUT GREVAN ARTISTIC VENTURES INC DBA ARTISTIC STONE WORKS. Artistic Stone Works, Inc. operates a stone fabrication facility in Fort Walton Beach, Florida. This family owned and operated company was founded in 2003 and employs a staff of 20.

THE CHALLENGE. Artistic Stone Works processes granite and marble slabs by using diamond cutting tools with a direct trickle of water to wet-cut stone slabs simultaneously. Using this type of cutting method produces water run-off.

The company received an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) audit for the water run-off from this process. The EPA views water run-off as a potential pollution hazard that could leach into the water supply and cause contamination. Artistic Stone Works was facing huge fines or potential plant closure if the water producing pollution process was not corrected to the EPA's standard. Artistic Stone Works contacted FloridaMakes, part of the MEP National Network™ for assistance.

MEP CENTER'S ROLE. FloridaMakes partnered with the University of West Florida's (UWF's) engineering department to support Artistic Stone Works with planning and implementing a slurry biodegradation system to capture and eliminate water contamination. In a slurry biodegradation system, an aqueous slurry is created by combining soil or sludge with water. This slurry is then biodegraded aerobically using a self-contained reactor or in a lined lagoon.

A three-step precipitation process was developed to reduce the stone slurry discharge of the company's wastewater. The first 2 precipitation steps eliminate 90% of the stone slurry from the wastewater and the final treatment is a biodegradation process. This eliminated the potential issue with the contaminated water run-off hazard to meet EPA requirements.

"Collaborating with UWF and their internal resources saved my business a great deal of money due to the university's niche departmental fields. UWF has a strong network of heavy-hitting rounded advisors for business support. Since April of 2017, UWF added FloridaMakes Business Advisors to their Florida panhandle campuses. Artistic Stone Works just completed an OSHA audit and were fined for safety and silica dust emissions. The University of West Florida/Florida Makes Business Advisors helped find an audial solution for OSHA safety compliance which reduced emissions of low level environmental contaminants. I highly recommend UWF/FloridaMakes Business Advisors to any manufacturer for challenges faced."

-Chip Gremillion, President

RESULTS



\$400,000 in new investments



\$225,000 in increased/retained sales



\$150,000 in cost savings



20 increased/retained jobs

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